



Newsletter of the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Donetsk People's Republic

03. 08. 2020

Main news of the Republic (from July 24 to August 2)

Four days the security forces of Kiev refrain from shelling the DPR territory - JCCC

Units of the armed forces of Ukraine over the past day did not violate the ceasefire on the line of contact. This was announced today at the Republic's representative in the Joint Center for Control and Coordination of the ceasefire regime (JCCC).

"Over the past day, no violations of the ceasefire regime by the armed formations of Ukraine have been recorded" - the JCCC noted.

According to the office, during the previous three days, the armed formations of Kiev also refrained from shelling the DPR territory. The last shelling of the Republic by the Ukrainian security forces was recorded on July 29.

At the same time, observers of the DPR representative office in the JCCC recorded two explosions of unidentified explosive devices near Ukrainian positions in the area of the village of Vodyanoe near the southern section of the contact line.

Statement of Natalia Nikonorova regarding the president of Ukraine statements

With very unpleasant surprise, we familiarized ourselves with the statement of the President of Ukraine that the agreements on additional measures to control the existing indefinite ceasefire should allegedly be signed by representatives of the countries of the Normandy Four for entry into force.

It took us almost 5 months of an extremely difficult and tense negotiation process to get the Ukrainian representatives to agree and sign clear commitments on measures to ensure the ceasefire regime. A fundamentally important point was the signing of these obligations by Ukraine - just in order to deprive the Ukrainian authorities of any opportunity to ignore and sabotage the implementation of these agreements. In addition, these measures were not only signed by the Ukrainian party and Republics' representatives, but also endorsed by the negotiations mediators - the OSCE and Russian Federation.

It is important to understand that such agreements do not require additional signatures at all, because the most essential and key is precisely the fact of the written recording to these measures implementation by conflict parties - Kiev and Republics. Since these are our obligations and Ukraine's. Nevertheless, we are grateful to Russia and the OSCE for expressing their support to agreements and confirming them in writing.

However, the very next day after the signing of the armistice measures, the Ukrainian president canceled the signature of his representative in the Contact group. Thus, Vladimir Zelensky literally with one phrase canceled all the progress achieved with such difficulty during the Minsk meetings in conflict resolving. It is obvious that such a step by the Ukrainian leader is a continuation of the destructive political line that was set by the resolution of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine dated July 15 on the holding of local elections, when provisions that grossly violate the Minsk agreements were enshrined in Ukrainian legislation.

In this regard, one can only guess what happened to the desire of Ukraine's leader to achieve peace in Donbass, about which he spoke with such enthusiasm during his election campaign. In addition, a fair question arises: How is it generally possible to talk and negotiate about anything with those persons who participate in the Contact Group sittings as delegates of Ukraine, if the next day their signatures can be canceled so easily by the Ukrainian president?

We appeal to the guarantors of the Minsk agreements and to the entire world community with an appeal to exert all possible pressure on Ukraine's leader in order not to allow him to disrupt the agreements on which the lives of thousands of people depend. For our part, we are ready to implement all the commitments we have assumed, but this is not a one-sided process - Ukraine must also show its will to implement peace agreements.

Commentary of Natalia Nikonorova regarding Leonid Kuchma's resign

We respect the decision of Leonid Kuchma to resign as head of the Ukrainian delegation. It is very important that he leaves with a positive note - his last signature is on a letter in support of additional measures to strengthen and control the ceasefire. As an experienced manager and diplomat, Leonid Kuchma was one of the few Ukrainian negotiators who demonstrated a constructive approach to negotiations. Due to his balanced position, it became possible to agree on additional measures. But today the issue of their implementation is especially acute, and therefore the parties are obliged to show willingness to cooperate. We hope that Kuchma's successors will draw the right conclusions from his experience in the Contact group.

Commentary of Natalia Nikonorova on appointment of Leonid Kravchuk as the head of Ukrainian delegation in Contact group

We hope that the new head of the Ukrainian delegation will demonstrate a constructive approach to the negotiation process and will not shy away from direct dialogue with Republics. This is especially important now, when we have managed to achieve serious results in the implementation of a comprehensive ceasefire regime, and

key issues of a political settlement stay in the agenda. Since the Ukrainian party has undertaken to coordinate all legal aspects with the representatives of Donbass, further progress will entirely depend on the availability of Kiev representatives' readiness for fruitful work.

Let's hope that Leonid Kravchuk will not repeat the mistakes of the Poroshenko regime, which, with its intractability and militaristic rhetoric, made every effort to disrupt the peaceful settlement. Instead, it is necessary to focus on the only possible way to restore peace in Donbass - to start implementing the Package of Measures in joint work with Republics' representatives.